

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083855

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, US, ET, PDEV, MASS

SUBJECT: GSDR STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF WSLF

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED GSDR FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT REPORTED BY REUTER MARCH 28: QUOTE: SOMALIA IS MORALLY BOUND TO ASSIST AND SUPPORT ITS BRETHREN IN WESTERN SOMALIA AND SHALL NEVER WAIVER IN ITS DETERMINATION TO DO SO UNTIL THESE PEOPLES ARE GIVEN FULL INDEPENDENCE. UNQUOTE..

2. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED THAT CONTINUING AND REPEATED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT GUERRILLAS BY GSDR WILL FURTHER SHAKE FRAGILE REGIONAL
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STABILITY AND WILL POSE OBSTACLES TO IMPROVING US/GSDR BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE REALIZE DELICACY OF THIS ISSUE IN MOGADISCIO, BUT SUGGEST THAT AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH APPROPRIATE SOMALI OFFICIAL SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CONCERNS SUCH AS AMB. ADDOU.

3. POINTS WE SHOULD WISH TO MAKE WOULD BE THAT SUCH

STATEMENTS RISK CREATING FURTHER TENSION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA WHICH COULD RISE TO LEVEL ABOVE VERBAL EXCHANGES. THIS COULD ENDANGER BOTH SOMALI POPULATION OF THE OGADEN AND THE TERRITORY OF THE GSDR ITSELF.

MOREOVER, INSURGENT ACTIVITIES BY THE WSLF AND SOMALI GOVERNMENT ENDORSEMENT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES PROVIDES JUSTIFICATION FOR CONTINUED CUBAN/SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA.. FURTHER, CONTINUED AGITATION OF THE OGADEN ISSUE BY THE GSDR MAKES U.S. SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY DEFENSIVE SUPPORT, FOR GSDR MORE DIFFICULT FOR US, BOTH BECAUSE THEY WILL RAISE QUESTIONS IN CONGRESS AND WITH THE PUBLIC, AND BECAUSE THEY WILL PROVOKE OPPOSITION TO DEFENSIVE ARMS FOR SOMALIA FROM OTHER STATES IN AFRICA. MR. MOOSE STRESSED THESE POINTS IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SIAD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GSDR CANNOT FORESWEAR CAUSE OF WSLF OR OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF OGADEN INHABITANTS, BUT FOR REASONS GIVEN, WE BELIEVE SUCH AGGRAVATION OF THE ISSUE, WHICH IS PROVOCATIVE TO ETHIOPIA AND THREATENING TO KENYA, SERVE INTERESTS NEITHER OF GSDR OR OF OGADEN SOMALI POPULATION.

4. WE SHOULD LIKE EMBASSY VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION.
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